THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Hibernian Society,

Drawn up by their Order, By a

COMMITTEE,

Composed of the following

MEMBERS.

JOHN TICKELL, *Esq;*
Revd. DR. JOHN LELAND.
Revd. DR. THOMAS LELAND, F. T. C. D.
FRANCIS HUTCHESON, M. D.

DUBLIN:
Printed for G. FAULKNER in *Essex-street,*
M DCC LVIII.

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OF THE

Hibernian Society,

BRITISH MUSEUM

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Compofed of the following

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Revd. Dr. John Leland.
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MDCCLVIII.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HIBERNIAN SOCIETY.

A TREATISE entitled *Britiſh Education*, was written by Mr. *Sheridan*, and publiſhed ſome Time ſince in *London*; wherein the Author endeavoured to ſhew, that many of the Evils which prevail in this Age, and theſe Nations, have ariſen from ſome material Defects and Errors in the fundamental Parts of Education, as it is at this Time generally conducted. The Concluſion of this Treatiſe contained a Promiſe, that if the Author's Opinion ſhould appear to be well founded, and his Reaſonings judged concluſive, by the diſcerning Part of Mankind, he would, on proper Encouragement, lay a Plan before the Public; the vigorous and effectual Execution of which, might probably ſupply thoſe Defects and remedy thoſe Errors.

This Book hath been honoured with many Teſtimonials of Approbation, by ſeveral Men of Learning and Eminence in both Nations. And many Parents, and Well-wiſhers of their Country, who conceived a favourable Opinion of the Sentiments and good Intentions of the Author, applied to him at ſundry Times, to fulfil his Promiſe to the Public, by laying open his Scheme for the Improvement of Education.

The Attention and Deference due to their Opinion, determined him to take ſuch Meaſures, as were deemed moſt proper for gratifying them, and diſco-

vering the real Sentiments of the Public. Mr. *Sheridan*, therefore, desired that a Meeting of all such as were solicitous about the Point, might be held at the *Musick-hall* in *Fishamble-street*, in Order that he might judge of the Probability of Success to his Scheme, by the Number and Condition of those who thought it worthy of their Regard. Agreeably to this Invitation, an Assembly composed of a great Number of Gentlemen, many of them distinguished by their Rank and Stations, and many, eminent in the several learned Professions, met at the Place appointed on *Tuesday*, *Dec.* 6, 1757. To whom it was proposed, that they should form themselves into a Society, for the Improvement of Education, and particularly for examining and carrying Mr. *Sheridan*'s Scheme into Execution, if, when explained and considered, it should appear to deserve Encouragement. This Proposal was received with so much Favour, that there were instantly subscribed more than Two hundred Names of Persons of Station, Fortune and Character; among whom, Fifty four had Seats in the House of Lords or Commons.

That the Scheme which Mr. *Sheridan* proposed, might be particularly and minutely examined, and for several Reasons, which concerned both the Proposer and the Public, it was judged most expedient, that from the Number of Gentlemen, who, by subscribing their Names, had united themselves together in that Society, since known by the Title of the HIBERNIAN SOCIETY, a Committee should be appointed, consisting of 41 Members; on whose Judgment and Determination, the whole Body, as well as the Public in general, might have a full Reliance, who should take the Scheme into their Consideration; and after maturely examining it, in all its several Parts, report their Opinion to the Society.

On *Thursday*, *Dec.* 15. a Meeting was held to appoint this Committee, which was composed of the following Persons,

JOHN

JOHN TICKELL, Eſq; Chairman.

RIGHT Hon. Earl of Shelburne.
Right Hon. Lord Tullamore.
Right Hon. Sir Arthur Gore, Bart.
Right Hon. Hercules Langford Rowley, Eſq;
Right Hon. Arthur Hill, Eſq;
Right Hon. Earl of Kerry.
Right Hon. and Rev. Lord Viſcount Strangford.
Right Rev. Lord Biſhop of Derry.
Right Rev. Lord Biſhop of Clogher.
Right Rev. Lord Biſhop of Killala.
Right Hon. Lord Farnham.
Hon. Lord Newtown.
Hon. Redmond Morres, Eſq;
Thomas Adderley, Eſq;
Henry Mitchell, Eſq;
William Stewart, Eſq;
William Scott, Eſq; his Majeſty's Prime Serjeant.
William Brownlow, Eſq;
Arthur Upton, Eſq;
Charles Gardiner, Eſq;
Bernard Ward, Eſq;
Andrew Knox, Eſq;
Rev. Doctor Samuel Madden.
Rev. Doctor Iſaac Mann, Archdeacon of Dublin.
Rev. Doctor William Fletcher.
Rev. Doctor John Brett.
Rev. Doctor Richard Stewart.
Rev. Doctor John Stokes, F. T. C. D.
Rev. Doctor Thomas Leland, F. T. C. D.
Rev. Doctor John Leland.
Doctor Francis Hutcheſon.
John Preſton, Eſq;
Charles Eccles, Eſq;
Thomas Butler, Eſq;
Kean O'Hara, Eſq;
Dudley Reeves, Eſq;
Henry Flood, Eſq;

Gorges Edmond Howard, Eſq;
Rev. Mr. Richard Marlay.

This Committee met from Time to Time, and was attended by Mr. *Sheridan*, who laid before them all the ſeveral Parts of his Scheme: Upon which the Members preſent made occaſional Obſervations, demanded Explanations, and by their Remarks, their Enquiries, and their Animadverſions, plainly ſhewed, that the Subject propoſed, engaged their utmoſt Attention.

On their laſt Day of meeting, the following Members were preſent.

JOHN TICKELL, Eſq; in the Chair.

REV. Lord Biſhop of Clogher.
Rev. Lord Biſhop of Derry.
Right Hon. Lord Farnham.
Right Hon. Sir Arthur Gore, Bart.
Hon. Lord Newtown.
William Brownlow, Eſq;
Redmond Morris, Eſq;
Rev. Iſaac Mann, D. D. A. D. D.
Rev. J. Stokes, D. D. F. T. C. D.
Rev. T. Leland, D. D. F. T. C. D.
Rev. Dr. Sam. Madden.
Rev. William Fletcher, L. L. D.
Rev. Dr. Brett.
Rev. Mr. Rich. Marlay.
Rev. Dr. John Leland.
Francis Hutcheſon, M. D.
Alexander Stewart, Eſq;
Kean O'Hara, Eſq;
John Preſton, Eſq;
Gorges Edm. Howard, Eſq;

Before whom Mr. *Sheridan* recapitulated all the Particulars he had formerly enlarged upon, collected

all

all the Parts of his Scheme into one View; and entered especially into a minute Detail of the Course of School Education, which he proposed to establish. When he had thus compleated the Account of his Scheme, he addressed himself to the Gentlemen present, in the following Manner.

"And now I have laid before the Honourable "Committee, a general Sketch of the whole Design; "and entered more minutely into the Particulars of "the first and most necessary Part of Education. I "am far from presuming to offer the Plan as a perfect "one, which would be the highest of Vanity: There "are, no doubt, many Errors to be corrected, and "many Deficiencies to be supplied. All Objections "to the one, all Hints towards the other, will be "received with the utmost Thankfulness. But I "humbly beg leave to observe, after a worthy and "reverend Member of this honourable Committee, "that the Time for minute Disquisitions, into the "smaller Parts of the Design, is not yet come. The "Question at present is, whether, upon the Whole, "it appears to deserve Encouragement; or, whether "any of the essential Points are wrong. If it should "have the good Fortune to be in general approved "of, and a consequential Report in it's Favour, "should be made to the Society, by a Committee "to whose Opinion and Judgment they must pay "the utmost Deference, from a Knowledge of the "Members that compose it; amongst whom, it will "be universally allowed, that there are some of the "most respectable Names in this Kingdom, both "for Knowledge and Goodness; it will be soon "known, what Kind of Encouragement, they, who "are most interested in the Event, are inclined to "give it. Should it happen to be utterly inade-"quate to the Ends proposed, the Scheme will, "of course, fall to the Ground in this Kingdom, "and there would then be no farther Occasion to "scrutinize into its more minute Parts.

But

" But ſhould a ſuitable Zeal appear, to promote " the Undertaking in ſuch a Manner as to make a " fair Beginning, that would afford a Proſpect of " Succeſs: In that Caſe, I ſhould endeavour, to the " beſt of my poor Abilities, to lay my whole Plan, " and all its Parts, in a more exact and accurate " Manner, not only before the Society, but the " Publick in general; in order that the Senſe of all " Mankind might be taken upon it, to render it " as complete as poſſible, before the Whole ſhould " be reduced to Practice. Without ſuch a Proſpect " of Succeſs, indeed, there are many powerful Rea- " ſons againſt my publiſhing ſuch a Plan at this " Juncture."

Several of the moſt eminent and reſpectable Members of the Committee, expreſſed their Approbation in Terms of ſufficient Zeal and Warmth, and it was inſtantly propoſed, to enter into certain Reſolutions, to be reported to the Society; which it was preſumed, from the Characters of the Perſons who were to frame them, might anſwer the Purpoſes, and, at the ſame Time, prevent the Inconveniencies of a precipitate Publication of the Plan at large.

The Reſolutions at firſt drawn up, and propoſed to the Committee, were thought by ſome Members, and particularly, by ſome Right Rev. and Rev. Gentlemen of Eminence, not entirely adequate to the Purpoſe of expreſſing their full Approbation of the Scheme laid before them. They therefore propoſed that ſome Expreſſions ſhould be changed to others of more Strength, and favourable Import; which Amendments were agreed to; and after ſome Debate, the Committee came unanimouſly to the following Reſolutions, which were reported to the Society, at a general Meeting, held for that Purpoſe, on *Friday, Jan.* 27.

Reſolved,

" Reſolved, That it is the Opinion of this Com-
" mittee, that the preſent Mode of School Educa-
" tion, is very defective and erroneous in the moſt
" eſſential Points.

" Reſolved, That it is the Opinion of this Com-
" mittee, that the Plan propoſed by Mr. *Sheridan*,
" for the Improvement of the Education of the
" Youth of this Kingdom, (the Particulars of which
" have been fully laid before us) is exceedingly well
" calculated to anſwer that Purpoſe.

" Reſolved, That it is the Opinion of this Com-
" mittee, that the carrying the ſaid Plan into Exe-
" cution, will be highly advantageous to the Educa-
" tion of the Youth of this Kingdom, and deſerves
" publick Encouragement."

After the Report, Numbers of Gentlemen, then preſent, engaged in a Voluntary Subſcription, both of immediate and annual Contributions, for the Introduction and Eſtabliſhment of a public Seminary of Education: To be conducted according to the Scheme approved of by the Committee.

As the Ways and Means of enlarging the Fund thus eſtabliſhed, as well as of directing and ſecuring the proper Application of it, came next to be conſidered: Another General Meeting was held *Wedneſday* the 8th of *February*, 1758; when the Society came unanimouſly to the following Reſolutions,

" That a Treaſurer ſhall be choſen annually. The
" Election to be made on the firſt Day of every
" *March*, provided it ſhould not happen on a *Sun-*
" *day*; in that Caſe to be the *Monday* following.

" That *Thomas Adderley*, Eſq; be requeſted to take
" upon him that Office for the preſent, and to hold

" it till the 25th of *March*, which will be in the " Year 1759.

" That a Deputation from the Society be appointed to attend his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, on the " next Levee Day, in order to lay before him the " Proceedings of the Society, and requeſt his Countenance and Encouragement to the Scheme, for " the Improvement of Education. The Perſons nominated on this Occaſion, were,

" The Right Hon. the Earl of Kerry.
" Right Hon. Lord Powerſcourt.
" Right Rev. Lord Biſhop of Clogher.
" Right Rev. Lord Biſhop of Derry.
" Right Hon. Lord Tullamore.
" Right Hon. Lord Farnham.
" Right Hon. Lord Newtown.
" Right Hon. Hercules Langford Rowley, Eſq;
" Sir Thomas Taylor, Bart.
" William Brownlow, Eſq;
" Charles Gardiner, Eſq;
" William Stewart, Eſq;
" Thomas Adderley, Eſq;
" Henry Mitchell, Eſq;

" Together with all ſuch Members of either Houſe " of Parliament, as are of the Society, who ſhall " be preſent at the Levee, and ſhall chuſe to accompany them. And that afterwards they may appoint " a Day for waiting on ſuch Perſons of exalted Rank " and high Stations, as they ſhall think proper for " the ſame Purpoſe. Mr. *Sheridan* to attend them.

" That a Standing Committee be appointed, to " conſider of Ways and Means to promote the Undertaking, and to carry it into ſpeedy Execution. " This Committee to conſiſt of all ſuch Members

" as

" as have already, or ſhall hereafter ſubſcribe to " the Scheme. To meet every *Wedneſday* at Mr. " *Sheridan*'s on the *Blind-Quay*, at Twelve o'Clock. " The firſt Meeting to be on *Wedneſday* next, the " 15th inſt. Nine to make a Quorum; the Chairman " of the Day to be choſen by a Majority of the Mem- " bers preſent."

The Standing Committee met accordingly, at the Time and Place appointed, when the following Reſolutions were unanimouſly entered into.

WILLIAM BROWNLOW, Eſq; in the Chair.

" Reſolved, That ſuch Members as have not " yet ſubſcribed any particular Sums, be requeſted to " ſignify what Encouragement they ſhall be pleaſed " to grant to the Scheme for the Improvement of " Education; and that Mr. *Preſton*, Mr. *Smith*, Mr. " *Gerrard*, Mr. *Macilwain*, with ſuch other Members " as pleaſe, be requeſted to wait on them for that " purpoſe, with the Subſcription Roll.

" Reſolved, That ſuch Members as have already " ſubſcribed, or who chuſe to ſubſcribe, be re- " queſted to pay in their ſeveral Subſcriptions to the " Hands of the Treaſurer, *Thomas Adderley*, Eſq; at " his Houſe in *Jervis-ſtreet*, or to either of the Banks " of Mr. *Mitchell*, and Meſſrs. *Finlay* and Company, " on or before *Wedneſday* the 22d inſtant, in order to " enable the Society to form a Plan and Eſtimate of " the Expence which muſt attend the reducing the " Scheme to Practice.

" Reſolved, That printed Receipts for ſaid Pay- " ments be lodged with the ſeveral Receivers, who " are to be accountable for all Sums depoſited in " their Hands, if the Scheme ſhould not be carried " on.

" Reſolved, That ſuch Members of the Society, " as are preparing to go the ſeveral Circuits, be de- " ſired to lay the Heads of the Scheme before the " Grand Juries in the ſeveral Counties, and to re- " queſt their Encouragement.

" Reſolved, That theſe Proceedings be printed."

On *Wedneſday, Feb.* 22. The Standing Committee held their ſecond Meeting. On which occaſion Mr. *Sheridan* laid before them a Plan and Eſtimate of the Expence attending the Execution of the firſt Part of his Scheme for the Improvement of the Education of the Youth of this Kingdom. The Committee came unanimouſly into the following Reſolutions, ſign'd with the Names of 28 Members, then preſent.

" Reſolved, that it is the Opinion of this Com- " mittee, that the Plan of a Public School, which, " with an Eſtimate of the Expence attending the " ſame, hath been this Day laid before this Com- " mittee, by Mr. *Sheridan*, is very proper for the " Purpoſe of improving the Education of the Youth " of this Country, and is very practicable, purſuant " to ſaid Eſtimate.

" Reſolved, that the Members of the *Hibernian* " Society, and all who are inclined to unite with " them, be invited to Dine at the *Phœnix* in *Wer-* " *burg-Street*, on this Day Fortnight, at which Time, " the Accounts of the ſeveral Collectors are to be " made up, and the Money paid into the Hands of " the Treaſurer, who is then to report to the Society " the ſeveral Sums received. It being expected that " Gentlemen who have not paid their ſeveral Sub- " ſcriptions hitherto, will on, or before that Day, " take Receipts for ſaid Subſcriptions from the Trea- " ſurer or the Collectors, in order that an exact Liſt

" of

" of the Names, as well as Sums ſubſcribed, may " be made out and publiſhed.

" Reſolved, that part of the Buſineſs of the Com- " mittee at the Meeting on *Wedneſday* next, ſhall be " to conſider of the proper Manner of proceeding in " the choice of a Preſident, and Vice Preſidents, " as well as to fix on the Day of Election."

On *Wedneſday* the 8th of *March*, there was a numerous meeting at the *Phœnix*, when the following Reſolutions were entered into unanimouſly.

" Reſolved, That the following Members be ad- " ded to thoſe appointed to wait on Subſcribers, *viz.* " Hon. Mr. *Morres*, Mr. *Adderley*, Revd. Dr. *Mad-* " *den*, Revd. Dr. *Fletcher*, Mr. *O'Hara*, Capt. *Swiney*.

" Reſolved, That the Committee be adjourned to " *Wedneſday April* 5, then to meet at Mr. *Sheridan*'s."

Thus far the HIBERNIAN SOCIETY for the Improvement of Education have proceeded in proſecution of a Deſign, which, if properly executed, promiſes to be a noble one. And it is hoped that from the plain and faithful Narrative that has now been given of their Proceedings, it will appear to the Satisfaction of the Public, that they have acted with due Deliberation, and have taken the propereſt Steps in an Affair of this Nature. That the Education of Youth, eſpecially young Gentlemen of Fortune, is of great Importance to the Community, is univerſally acknowledged, and therefore every Attempt to ſet it on a proper footing claims the Attention, and if it appears to be well calculated to promote that deſirable End, deſerves the Encouragement of the Public. How far the Scheme that has been propoſed will anſwer the excellent Purpoſes intended by it, Time and Experience muſt determine. But it cannot but create a

Prejudice

Prejudice in its Favour, that after having been maturely conſidered and examined, it has had the Approbation of Perſons of diſtinguiſhed Worth and Eminence, who are known to be above little private Views, and whoſe Judgment cannot be eaſily impoſed upon in Matters of this Nature. The Spirit and Zeal which many Gentlemen have ſhewn on this Occaſion, is greatly to their Honour, ſince they could have no other Inducement to concern themſelves in it ſo far as they have done, but a laudable Forwardneſs to promote what they apprehend will be to the real Advantage of the Public.

It is perhaps ſcarce poſſible to propoſe any Scheme of this Kind, againſt which Objections may not be raiſed. It is therefore not to be wondered at that this preſent Deſign has been objected to. Some of the Objections that have been made ſeem to have ariſen from Miſtakes, which it is to be hoped, the Narrative that is here given of the Society's Proceedings will ſhew to have been groundleſs. And as to any Objections that might be ſuppoſed to proceed from a real Deſire to rectify, what is apprehended to be amiſs in the Scheme, in order to the rendering it more advantageous to the Public, a due Regard will undoubtedly be had to them, and a proper Uſe will be made of any material Hints that ſhall be offered. But whilſt the main of the Scheme ſeems to be well adapted to anſwer the End propoſed, any ſmaller Defects in it cannot be a juſt Reaſon for rejecting the Whole, or for not purſuing a Deſign which hath ſo fair an Appearance of public Utility. The Thing is of ſuch Conſequence, that any reaſonable Proſpect of ſucceeding in it is enough to awaken and rouſe a generous Mind, and to kindle a noble Emulation among the Friends of Learning and Virtue, and thoſe who have the Honour and Welfare of the Community at Heart. It is not to be expected, that the Plan in it's whole Extent can be eaſily or ſpeedily brought to bear; but the firſt Eſſays towards it deſerve to be encouraged. No great or good

Deſign

Deſign was ever accompliſhed without Difficulty, or brought to Perfection at once. In every Caſe of this Kind a ſteady Reſolution and Perſeverance will be neceſſary. The Attempt muſt be owned to be a laudable one; and if it ſhould in any conſiderable Degree anſwer the Intention, it will not only be of great Advantage to this Kingdom, but will be no ſmall Honour to it, and may poſſibly lead the Way to other Nations in ſo noble and uſeful an Undertaking. And if it ſhould not fully anſwer all the Ends propoſed by it, yet if it tendeth, as there is great Reaſon to believe it will, to the rectifying ſome material Errors, and ſupplying ſome Defects which have been juſtly complained of in the preſent uſual Methods of Education, it will anſwer a very valuable Purpoſe to the Public. The Society therefore doubt not they ſhall have both the good Wiſhes and the Aſſiſtance of many generous and worthy Perſons towards forwarding a Work ſo well deſigned. And as no Care will be wanting on their Parts to ſee that it be properly conducted, it is hoped their Endeavours will meet with the deſired Succeſs.

FINIS.

Design was ever accomplished without Difficulty, or brought to Perfection at once. In every Circle of this Kind a ready Refolution and Perfeverance will be neceffary. The Attempt muft be owned to be a laudable one, and if it fhould in any conſiderable Degree anſwer the Intention, it will not only be of great Advantage to this Kingdom, but will be no ſmall Honour to it, and may poſſibly lead the Way to other Nations in ſo noble and uſeful an Undertaking. And if it ſhould not fully anſwer all the Ends propoſed by it, yet if it ſucceeds, as there is great Reaſon to believe it will, to the rectifying ſome material Errors, and ſupplying ſome Defects which have been juſtly complained of in the preſent uſual Methods of Education, it will anſwer a very valuable Purpoſe to the Public. The Society therefore doubt not they ſhall have both the good Wiſhes and the Aſſiſtance of many generous and worthy Perſons towards forwarding a Work ſo well deſigned. And the Care will be wanting on their Parts to ſee that it be properly conducted, it is hoped their Endeavours will meet with the deſired Succeſs.

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